

Organisation name	Peartree Languages, Cardiff
Inspection date	12 December 2024
Current accreditation status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Signalled: monitor effect of change

Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation pending a full inspection of the year-round provision within 12 months.

Changes to the summary statement

The reference to vacation courses for under 18s can be removed (as this is now under a separate accreditation). Professional English courses can be added and also that courses are in school premises and online.

New summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited Peartree Languages, Cardiff in October 2019 and December 2024. The Accreditation Scheme assesses the standards of management, resources and premises, teaching, welfare, and safeguarding under 18s and accredits organisations which meet the overall standard in each area inspected (see www.britishcouncil.org/education/accreditation for details).

This small private language school offers courses in general and professional English for adults (18+) and young people (16+) and for closed groups of under 18s in school premises and online.

The inspection report stated that the organisation met the standards of the Scheme.

Updated summary inspection findings

Management

The provision meets the section standard. The provision is managed satisfactorily in accordance with the organisation's stated values and goals.

Premises and resources

The provision meets the section standard. Premises and facilities meet the needs of students and staff. Learning resources are appropriate and adequate in number to support effective learning and teaching.

Teaching and learning

The provision meets the section standard. The academic staff profile is satisfactory. Academic management is satisfactory, and courses are designed to meet the needs and interests of the students. The teaching observed met the requirements of the Scheme.

Welfare and student services

The provision meets the section standard. Students receive a good level of pastoral care, and all systems and arrangements to meet their needs for security are satisfactory.

Safeguarding under 18s

The provision meets the section standard. There is appropriate provision for the safeguarding of students under the age of 18 within the organisation.

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

The items sampled were satisfactory.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	2010
Last full inspection	2019
Subsequent checks/visits (if applicable)	N/a

Other related non-accredited activities (in brief) at this centre	Foreign language tuition (Spanish and Portuguese), non-accredited teacher training courses
Other related accredited schools/centres/affiliates	Peartree Languages, Cardiff English Language Experience and Adventure (ELEA)
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	N/a

Student and staff profile	At inspection	Estimate at peak: June
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	20	77
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	13	12
Typical age range	13–70	13–70
Typical length of stay	3–4 months	8–12 months
Predominant nationalities	Italian, Spanish	French, Italian, Spanish
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	3	6
Total number of managers including academic	2	2
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	1	1

Premises profile	
Address of main site	2 nd floor, 23 Windsor Place, Cardiff CF10 3BY
Additional sites in use	N/a
Additional sites not in use	CAVC College, One Canal Parade, Cardiff CF10 5BF
Sites inspected	Windsor Place (remotely)

Introduction

Background

Since the school's last full inspection in October 2019, it has undergone many changes. It has relocated to new premises on two occasions and its staffing structure and range of courses offered have been reduced.

In July 2024 separate accreditation was awarded for the summer vacation course for under 18s: Peartree Languages, Cardiff English Language Experience and Adventure (ELEA). Outside the summer, the school now focuses on general English, professional English and teacher training courses; the majority of these courses now take place online (one to one and small groups).

A signalled spot check inspection took place remotely in December 2024. The focus of the inspection was to view the new premises, assess the new courses offered and to investigate the differences in management between the summer vacation course and the year-round provision. A full inspection of the year-round provision will take place within 12 months.

Preparation

The spot check inspector was sent relevant documents by the Accreditation Unit. The school also provided a range of documentation related to the areas the inspection was focusing on, as well as video recordings of two lessons and a recorded tour of the premises.

Programme and persons present

The inspection began at 9.15 and ended at 13.15. The inspector met the general manager, academic manager and administrator. A student focus meeting also took place. No lessons were taking place the day of the inspection, but the inspector observed two pre-recorded sessions. In addition to the documentation submitted prior to the inspection, various other documents were requested and seen.

Findings

Management

The provision is well managed. The General Manager is responsible for the day-to-day running of the school and is supported by the academic manager and the administrator. The staffing structure is appropriate for the number of students enrolled. There are objectives in place for the future of the organisation. Systems to obtain feedback from

students are appropriate and feedback is regularly reviewed to inform development of systems and processes. Procedures to ensure student administration is efficient are in place. Currently, there is no publicity.

Premises and resources

The school's premises is on the second floor of a shared office building close to Cardiff's main shopping street. It consists of one classroom and an office/staffroom. The premises provide a suitable environment for both staff and students.

Teaching and learning

The profile of academic management and the teaching team are appropriate. Support is offered to teachers on a day-to-day basis and also to ensure continuing professional development. Courses are designed well and content is negotiated with students based on needs and competencies. Students are guided well in their learning with initial needs analysis taking place, regular tutorials and monitoring of progress. The lessons observed met the standards of the Scheme.

Welfare and student services

Systems are in place to ensure students receive appropriate pastoral care. The school no longer offers a leisure programme or accommodation.

Safeguarding under 18s

The school accepts closed groups of under 18s and has some online students under the age of 18. The groups study at CAVC and the school only provides lessons. Arrangements to ensure that under 18s are safe during scheduled lesson times are in place, as is an appropriate safeguarding policy.

Conclusions

Many aspects of the school have changed since its last inspection; however, it continues to operate to the benefit of its students. The provision is well managed, premises and resources are appropriate to the profile and number of students, academic management is suitable and pastoral care and safeguarding of under 18s are both well taken care of.

Action plan

N/a
